

Washington State GEAR UP

Preparing Students for College



February 25, 2005
House Higher Education Committee

WASHINGTON
**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
COORDINATING BOARD

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

Washington state receives \$2.7 million to \$3.5 million annually in federal GEAR UP funds.

GEAR UP is a national initiative to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in college.

GEAR UP Objectives

Objective 1: Increase the academic performance and preparation for college and training.

Objective 2: Increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in college and postsecondary training.

Objective 3: Increase students' and their families' knowledge of post high school educational options, preparation, and financing.

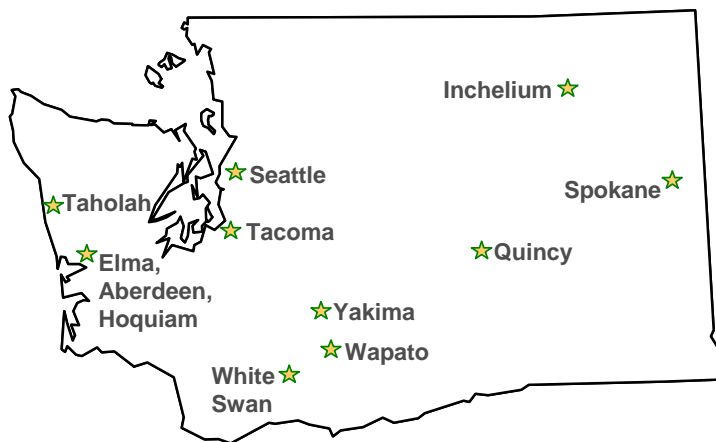
The state GEAR UP project is ...

- A partnership of the Office of the Governor, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the University of Washington;
- Funded by the U.S. Department of Education in collaboration with state government, local communities, schools, colleges, and the private sector; and
- The program is funded through August 2005.

Early Intervention Projects

- GEAR UP Scholars Project
 - Direct early intervention services to students in grades 7 through 12 and their families.
- State and Partnership Coordination Project
 - Summer institutes at the University of Washington for students and teachers.
 - Publications and promotion of GEAR UP.
 - Professional development for staff and teachers.
 - Leadership to all GEAR UP projects in the state.

Scholars Project Locations



Our Students' Backgrounds

- Typically the first in their families to think about or go to college.
- All come from low-income communities.
- Many have other risk factors such as struggling with academics and low English proficiency.
- To navigate the admissions and financial aid processes, our students need the assistance of sensitive, caring, and understanding adults.

Scholars Project Services

1,200 Scholars directly participate in year-round early intervention activities; another 5,000 participate in outreach activities.

Services include:

- Academic planning and tutoring
- Field trips to colleges and universities
- Early and frequent information about financial aid and college preparation
- Career advising and mentoring

GEAR UP Scholarships

- Available to students who participate in the Washington State Scholars Project.
- Students may earn up to four years of scholarship.
- Student and Parent/Sponsor both participate to earn the scholarship.
- The value for 2004-2005 is \$4,050.
- Funded through the State Education Trust Fund, and is a substantial part of the state's \$1-to-\$1 match.

HECB - February 25, 2005

9

GEAR UP Successes

- **73 percent of the Washington State GEAR UP project's graduates enrolled in college** within two years of high school graduation. Nationally, about 35 percent of students from low-income families participate in college before the age of 25.
- **More students are on their way to college** — 91 percent of our GEAR UP Scholars have taken algebra or higher level mathematics by the end of their ninth grade year.
- **Students participate an average of 145 hours in program activities annually.** Program activities are offered after school and on weekends only.
- **Parents participate an annual average of 35 hours in the project,** learning about college readiness and planning and leading parent advocacy efforts.

HECB - February 25, 2005

10

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